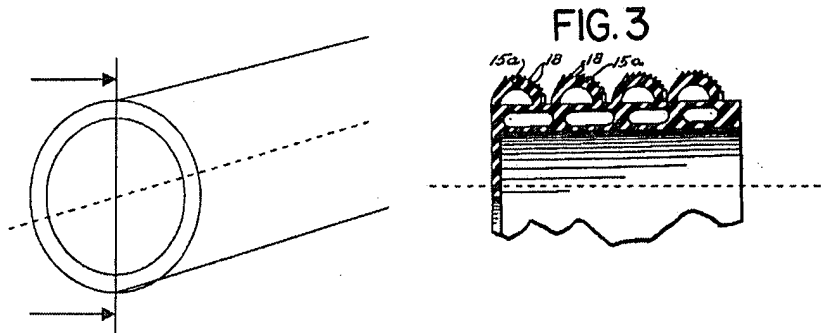


**REMARKS:**

Claims 1-21 are pending in the application and are again rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on Sumitomo in view of Nathan, U.S. 2,615,741, on the latter of which the Examiner is relying for disclosure of hollow protrusions 15a extending from the side of a sealing strip. Applicant traverses the rejection because Nathan does not disclose, within the meaning of the claims, that for which the Examiner is relying on it.

Figures 1-6 of Nathan do not teach an enclosed recess; rather, Nathan teaches enclosed cavities. Figures 1-10 all disclose a sealing ring (see column 1, line 1) shown with a cross-section in the axial direction of the sealing ring (see column 1, line 27 ("axial section")). Following, e.g., Figures 2 and 10, parts of the pipes which the sealing ring is intended to seal against are also shown with a cross-section along their axial direction. Figure 1 of Nathan is reproduced below to illustrate the axial direction of the sealing ring.



*Figure 1 illustrating the with the arrows the view of the axial cross section shown in figures 1-10 of Nathan. The dotted line indicates the axial direction (added to the figure 3 from Nathan for illustrative purpose).*

As is understood when reading Nathan in view of the above, the recesses which are referred to in the pending claims are not shown or described in Nathan. Nathan teaches about cavities (referred to as 11 in Nathan), hollow ribs or arches 15a or annular cavities. It is understood that the term "cavities" is used as the cavity extends around the periphery of the seal ring and cannot be said to form enclosed recesses as outlined in pending claims 1-21.

Nathan therefore can not teach one of skill in the art what the Examiner is implying, even in light of *KSR*. There is no benefit taught in Nathan about an embodiment having enclosed recesses. Thus, the combination of Sumitomo and Nathan yields one of skill in the art something different than what is currently recited in the pending claims 1-21. Accordingly, Applicant traverses the rejection and requests that it be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that all claims are in condition for allowance, and timely Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

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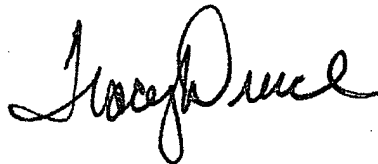
The undersigned representative requests any extension of time that may be deemed necessary to further the prosecution of this application.

The undersigned representative authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 or 1.17 that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 14-1437, referencing Attorney Docket No.: 6730.054.PCUS00.

In order to facilitate the resolution of any issues or questions presented by this paper, the Examiner may directly contact the undersigned by phone to further the discussion.

Novak, Druce & Quigg, LLP  
1000 Louisiana, Suite 5300  
Houston, Texas 77002  
(713) 571-3400  
(713) 456-2836 (fax)  
[tracy.druce@novakdruce.com](mailto:tracy.druce@novakdruce.com)

Respectfully submitted,



Tracy W. Druce, Esq.  
Reg. No. 35,493